Education as a fundamental right

† 393. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have brought 86th constitutional amendment for making education a fundamental right to all the children of 6-14 years of age group;

(b) whether Government have notified the same in the Gazette on the 13th December, 2002 by enacting it during the year 2002-03;

(c) if so, whether any Central legislation has been enacted as required for this purpose after the above constitutional amendment;

(d) whether any directives have been issued to the States for making any arrangements under Article 21A of the Constitution; and

(e) the outcome of the action taken so far in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The Constitution (86th Amendment) Act which seeks to, *inter-alia,* add Article 21-A ("Right to Education") to Part III ("Fundamental Rights") of the Constitution has been published in the Gazette of India on 13-12-2002.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) States are regularly addressed to universalise elementary education, principally through proper implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

(e) Number of out of school children has declined, and additional facilities are being created for better retention in, and qualitative improvement of, elementary education.

Revitalization of the NEC

*394. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that revitalization of the NEC has been identified as a "THRUST AREA";

(b) if so, whether Government have received any recommendations in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Committee on Revitalisation of NEC, constituted by the Government has submitted its report on 30.7.2004. The major recommendations made by the Committee relate to composition of the Council, strengthening of organizational set-up of the NEC Secretariat, regional planning for sustainable growth and development of NER, financing and implementation of the regional plan, monitoring and evaluation of development projects, establishing synergies with development partners, role of NEC in border trade and operationalising NEC's mandate on security and public order.

Atrocities on SCs/STs in Madhya Pradesh

†*395. SHRI P.K MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of atrocities registered in Madhya Pradesh under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, during the last three years, district-wise;

(b) the number of cases in which prosecution was initiated, district-wise;

(c) the number of accused in these cases who were found guilty and punished by the court; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to prevent atrocities on the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the State?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The number of cases registered, prosecuted and convicted in the courts under the Scheduled Castes and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.